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## 108 Menner named to 'Iowa Great Places' panel

Bill Menner, executive director of Pow-I-80 was named last week by Gov. Tom Vilsack as a member of the governor's "Iowa Great Places" board.

The board was created by executive order of the governor last January to focus the resources of state government on building the capacity in communities, regions, neighborhoods or districts to cultivate "the unique and authentic qualities that make these areas special places to live and work."

Board members will advise the design of the "Iowa Great Places" initiative and assist in choosing three pilot "Great Places."

Menner, one of 12 board members selected, is also the director of Grinnell Renaissance and a veteran public radio reporter.

The panel also includes community

and cultural leaders, local government officials, housing developers, business owners and parks officials. Also appointed to the board were Robin Anderson of Mason City, David Bernstein of Sioux City, Claire Celsi of Des Moines, Samantha Ericson of Pleasant Hill, Mark Ginsberg of Iowa City, Tom Hanafan of Council Bluffs, Quentin Hart of Waterloo, Terry Lynch of Marion, Gil Spence of Dubuque, Amanda Styron of Mount Pleasant and Rita Vagas of Davenport.

Vilsack charged the group with convincing communities to "capitalize on their historic fabric, built and natural environment, housing options, retail amenities, entrepreneurial incentives, business development, diversity, arts and culture."